

2. (New) A method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the method comprising acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

receiving an encrypted server authentication response from the server;

decrypting the server authentication response; and

disabling one or more client functions unless the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

3. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising an act of activating one or more functions of the client if the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

4. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

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5. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising acts of periodically:
generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;
transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to one or more subsequent servers;
for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a subsequent encrypted server authentication response;
decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and
for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses, disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate that a subsequent server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

6. (New) A method as recited in claim 5, wherein at least one server authentication response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration information.

7. (New) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the server authentication request comprises an encryption key and a random number, the method further comprising an act of encrypting the server authentication request.

8. (New) A method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the method comprising acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

after an allotted period of time, determining that no response to the server authentication request has been received by the client;

interpreting no response as an indication that the server is not authorized to provide resources to the client; and

disabling one or more client functions.

9. (New) A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

10. (New) A method as recited in claim 8, further comprising acts of periodically:
generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;
transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to one or
more subsequent servers;
for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a
subsequent encrypted server authentication response;
decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and
for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses:
disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate
that a subsequent server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client;
and
activating one or more client functions when a response indicates that the
server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

11. (New) A method as recited in claim 10, wherein at least one server authentication
response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining
when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration
information.

12. (New) A computer program product for implementing a method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions that implement the method, wherein the method comprises acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

receiving an encrypted server authentication response from the server;

decrypting the server authentication response; and

disabling one or more client functions unless the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

13. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, the method further comprising an act of activating one or more functions of the client if the server authentication response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

14. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, the method further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

15. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, the method further comprising acts of periodically:

generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;

transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to one or more subsequent servers;

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a subsequent encrypted server authentication response;

decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses, disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate that a subsequent server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

16. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein at least one server authentication response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration information.

17. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 12, wherein the server authentication request comprises an encryption key and a random number, the method further comprising an act of encrypting the server authentication request.

18. (New) A computer program product for implementing a method of verifying that a server is authorized to provide resources to a client, the computer program product comprising a computer readable medium carrying computer executable instructions that implement the method, wherein the method comprises acts of:

generating a server authentication request at the client;

transmitting the server authentication request to the server;

after an allotted period of time, determining that no response to the server authentication request has been received by the client;

interpreting no response as an indication that the server is not authorized to provide resources to the client; and

disabling one or more client functions.

19. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 18, the method further comprising an act of waiting to disable the one or more functions until after a grace period.

20. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 18, the method further comprising acts of periodically:

generating one or more subsequent server authentication requests at a client;

transmitting the one or more subsequent server authentication requests to one or more subsequent servers;

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication requests, receiving a subsequent encrypted server authentication response;

decrypting each subsequent server authentication response; and

for each of the one or more subsequent server authentication responses:

disabling one or more client functions when a response fails to indicate that a subsequent server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client;

and

activating one or more client functions when a response indicates that the server is authorized to provide at least one resource to the client.

21. (New) A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein at least one server authentication response comprises expiration information, the method further comprising an act of determining when at least one subsequent authentication request should occur based on the expiration information.